

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of the application are respectfully requested in view of remarks herewith.

I. STATUS OF THE CLAIMS AND FORMAL MATTERS

Claims 8-14 are pending. Claims 8 and 12-14, which are independent, are hereby amended. No new matter has been added. Support for this amendment is provided throughout the Specification as originally filed and specifically on page 20 (paragraph [0073]). It is submitted that these claims, as originally presented, were in full compliance with the requirements of 35 U.S.C. §112. Changes to claims are not made for the purpose of patentability within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. §101, §102, §103, or §112. Rather, these changes are made simply for clarification and to round out the scope of protection to which Applicants are entitled.

II. REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. §101

Claim 14 is hereby amended, thereby obviating the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §101.

III. REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 8-14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as allegedly anticipated by JP 2000-276851 to Hirofumi (hereinafter, merely "Hirofumi").

IV. RESPONSE TO REJECTIONS

Claim 8 recites, *inter alia*:

"...storage means for reading, from the information recording medium, a first table which provides a space corresponding to

each of all unit recording areas of the information recording medium and storing the first table on the storage means...
(Emphasis added)

As understood by Applicants, Hirofumi relates to a digital data playback equipment in which fast forwarding reproduction is possible to a forward direction or an opposite direction.

Applicants submit that Hirofumi fails to teach or disclose the above discussed feature of claim 8. Specifically, Hirofumi does not teach storage means for reading, from the information recording medium, a first table which provides a space corresponding to each of all unit recording areas of the information recording medium and storing the first table on the storage means, as recited in claim 8.

Specifically, the Office Action asserts that Hirofumi describe a non volatile memory card 25 for storing the directory entry and the FAT entry. However, Applicants submit that in Hirofumi, the "File Allocation Table" FAT of the file Chapter01 is stored in the memory card 25 instead of RAM 11, and the FAT data are loaded one by one to RAM11 from the memory card 25, to generate a bidirectional recording area list (See, Hirofumi, paragraph [0037]). In the present invention, as shown in step S3 in Fig. 9, to generate file playback information, the FAT, or the partial FAT that contains the FAT addresses 0 to 9 and that does not contain the FAT address 110 and subsequent addresses, is copied to the work DRAM 6 from the information recording medium 8 (See, Specification, page 20, paragraph [0073]). Consequently, nothing has been found in Hirofumi that would teach storage means for reading, from the information recording medium, a first table which provides a space corresponding to each of all unit recording areas of the information recording medium and storing the first table on the storage means, as recited in claim 8.

Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that Hirofumi fails to teach or suggest storage means for reading, from the information recording medium, a first table which provides a space corresponding to each of all unit recording areas of the information recording medium and storing the first table on the storage means, as recited in claim 8.

Therefore, Applicants submit that independent claim 8 is patentable.

For reasons similar to, or somewhat similar to, those described above with regard to independent claim 8, independent claims 12-14 are also patentable.

V. DEPENDENT CLAIMS

The other claims are dependent from an independent claim, discussed above, and are therefore believed patentable for at least the same reasons. Since each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, the individual reconsideration of the patentability of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

Similarly, because Applicants maintain that all claims are allowable for at least the reasons presented hereinabove, in the interests of brevity, this response does not comment on each and every comment made by the Examiner in the Office Action. This should not be taken as acquiescence of the substance of those comments, and Applicants reserve the right to address such comments.

CONCLUSION

In the event the Examiner disagrees with any of the statements appearing above with respect to the disclosures in the cited reference, or references, it is respectfully requested


that the Examiner specifically indicate the portion, or portions, of the reference, or references, providing the basis for a contrary view.

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In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is believed that all of the claims in this application are patentable and Applicants respectfully request early passage to issue of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,

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